

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the personal interview conducted with the examiner and the supervisory examiner on March 3, 2009. During the interview Applicants summarized the instant invention and urged the patentability thereof over U.S. Patent No. 5,974,968 to Achelpohl. In explaining the differences between Achelpohl's pressure medium-piston-cylinder unit and Applicants' claimed mandrel-locking unit, Applicants referred to, *inter alia*, Achelpohl's Figure 2 and Applicants' Figures 1 and 2.

In the present Amendment, new claims 11-17 have been added. Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 16, and 17 are independent. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

New claims 11-17 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. Claim 11 defines an embodiment of the invention in which the pressure chamber and the guide area are separated from each other by the mandrel-mounting element and a sealing ring. Support for claim 11 is found in the original disclosure at specification page 5/6, lines 1-2, and in Figures 1 and 2.

In response to a suggestion made by the supervisory examiner during the interview, new claims 16 and 17 have also been added to further define the structure of Applicants' claimed invention. Claim 16 defines an embodiment of the invention in which "the piston delimit[s] the pressure chamber at a boundary surface and [is] connected to the mandrel-mounting element for a transfer of force required for sliding the mandrel-mounting element, *a surface of the piston opposite the boundary surface being directly connected to an end surface of the mandrel-mounting element.*"

Claim 17 defines an embodiment of the invention in which "the piston delimit[s] the pressure chamber at a boundary surface and [is] connected to the mandrel-mounting element for a transfer of force required for sliding the mandrel-mounting element, *a surface of the piston opposite the boundary surface being directly connected to an end surface of the mandrel-mounting element, the transfer of force being provided by a compressed fluid that acts on the connected piston and mandrel-mounting element.*"

Support for claims 16 and 17 is found in the original disclosure at, e.g., specification pages 4/6-5/6, and in Figures 1 and 2.

Entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Achelpohl

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,974,968 to Achelpohl et al. (hereinafter "Achelpohl").

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-10 under § 102(b) based on Achelpohl is respectfully traversed. For at least the following reasons, the disclosure of Achelpohl does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

First, in the Office Action of January 11, 2008, the examiner acknowledged that "Achelpohl et al. *do not disclose* that the distance between the boundary surface and connecting point is smaller than the maximum of the stroke in the pressurizing medium cylinder and the inner diameter of the pressurizing medium cylinder is larger than the outer diameter of the mandrel-mounting element" (Office Action page 5).

Now, the examiner asserts that Achelpohl discloses "a distance between the boundary surface and the connecting point being smaller (it is arrangeable by the connection between the piston and the mandrel-mounting element as well as the distance between them because there is a hole to let air through from 30 to the left part of 26 and 30 is a part of 26) than a maximum stroke of the piston in the pressurizing medium cylinder (26)" (present Office Action page 3).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner's revised position with regard to the disclosure of the Achelpohl

reference. Achelpohl simply does not teach each feature of Applicants' claimed invention. See Achelpohl's Figure 2. Achelpohl discloses a rotary printing machine in which the free ends of its engraved rollers - the journals 5, 6 - can be fixed by receiving heads 27 which 27 can be slit in the axial direction. The receiving heads 27 are located inside the bear guides 26 (column 2, lines 60-67). The receiving heads 27 can be moved by a pressure medium-piston-cylinder unit 30, whose "piston rods" are connected to the heads 27 (column 2, line 67, through column 3, line 4). The engraved rollers can be exchanged by unfixing the journals 5, 6 from the receiving heads and leading the journals 5, 6 through window-like breakthroughs.

There is, however, *no disclosure whatsoever* by Achelpohl of Applicants' claimed *piston* boundary surface - to - connecting point distance feature. As indicated above, Achelpohl simply discloses that "piston *rods* are connected to the heads 27." See the depiction of the relatively thin piston *rod* between the pressure medium-piston-cylinder unit 30 and the receiving head 27 in Achelpohl's Figure 2. But, a piston *rod* is not a *piston*. Achelpohl's piston *rod* (also known as a connecting rod) simply connects the journal receiving head 27 to the pressure medium-piston-cylinder unit 30. Conversely, for an example of a *piston*, see element 4 in Applicants' Figures 1 and 2.

There is, therefore, no disclosure by Achelpohl of Applicants' claimed *piston* boundary surface - to - connecting point distance feature. Applicants can find no support for the examiner's assertion that Achelpohl discloses Applicants' claimed distance feature because Achelpohl does not even describe or illustrate a *piston*. In fact, Achelpohl contains no description whatsoever relating to either the connection between a *piston* and the mandrel-mounting element, or the distance between the aforementioned elements.

Since Achelpohl does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Achelpohl does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 7-10 are allowable because they depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and for the subject matter recited therein.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achelpohl in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,562,358 to Okamoto et al. ("Okamoto"). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achelpohl in view of Okamoto and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,954 to Rosberg et al. ("Rosberg").

The rejections of claims 5 and 6 under § 103(a) based on combinations of references with Achelpohl as the primary reference are also respectfully traversed. Claims 5 and 6 each depend from

claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over Achelpohl for at least the reasons outlined above in response to the rejection under § 102(b). Claims 5 and 6 are allowable because they depend from claim 1, and for the subject matter recited therein. Furthermore, there is simply no teaching in Okamoto or Rosberg that rectifies any of the above-described deficiencies of Achelpohl.

Accordingly, the combined disclosures of Achelpohl and Okamoto, or of Achelpohl, Okamoto, and Rosberg, would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by either of, respectively, Applicants' claims 5 and 6.

New claims 11-17 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. New claims 11-17 are also allowable. As indicated above in the introductory remarks, claim 11 defines an embodiment of the invention in which the pressure chamber and the guide area are separated from each other by the mandrel-mounting element and a sealing ring. The sealing ring 10 is fixed in the pressurizing medium cylinder 2. In Applicants' invention, the mandrel-mounting element 9 assumes the function of a piston rod that would be present in a conventional pressurizing medium cylinder. That is why in this embodiment of the instant invention the pressurizing medium cylinder 2 is provided with the sealing ring 10.

Since independent claim 11 includes at least the features discussed above with respect to the rejection over Achelpohl, the reference neither anticipates nor would have rendered obvious the

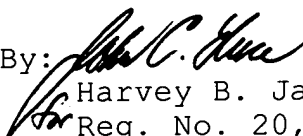
mandrel-locking unit defined by claim 11. Claims 12-15 are allowable because they depend from claim 11, and for the subject matter recited therein.

New claims 16 and 17 are also allowable. As indicated above in the introductory remarks, claim 16 defines an embodiment of the invention in which, *inter alia*, "a surface of the piston opposite the boundary surface [is] directly connected to an end surface of the mandrel-mounting element." Claim 17 defines an embodiment of the invention in which, *inter alia*, "a surface of the piston opposite the boundary surface [is] directly connected to an end surface of the mandrel-mounting element, the transfer of force being provided by a compressed fluid that acts on the connected piston and mandrel-mounting element." See Applicants' Figures 1 and 2.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that another interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By:  Reg. No. 34,378
Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr.
Reg. No. 20,851

400 Seventh Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-6666
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